

# UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



FALL 1999

## Up To Speed In Butte

**It's a clear winter morning in Butte, Montana. Speed skaters clad in skin-tight suits move in rows around a slick oval track.**

As the racers circle the course, they crouch low, their backs nearly flat. While one arm rhythmically keeps pace with their feet, the other arm is tucked behind their backs. Near the finish line you can see the skaters breath, hear the cheers of the crowd.

This is Butte's U.S. High Altitude Sports Center. Since 1987 this world-class skating rink has hosted top skaters from around the world. This winter, skaters will again glide into Butte for the Sprint World Cup, January 22-23, 2000.

"All of the major speed skating countries will be represented," says Mary Crowe, a Board Member with the U.S. High Altitude Sports Center. "We expect over 80 of the fastest male and female skaters from around the world." This two-day competition will showcase the best in the 500-meter and 1,000-meter races.

Standing at 5,500 feet elevation, the Butte rink is one of the highest in the world.



Crowe explains that the high altitude "helps the skaters with their stamina when they compete at lower elevation rinks." She adds that it's a natural

**"We expect over 80 of the fastest male and female skaters from around the world."**

*- Mary Crowe*

*Speed skaters at Butte's U.S. High Altitude Sports Center.*

training ground for skaters—both Olympic champions Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen trained in Butte. And with the coming of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, Butte hopes to stage some of the major races leading up to the event.

But you don't have to be a top skater to take a turn around this oval; the rink is open to the public.

For more information call the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce at (800) 735-6814.

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# What's the Skinny?

## Big Mountain Hosts the Telemark World Cup

Eighty-five of the world's top telemark racers will descend on Big Mountain Ski Resort for the World Cup Telemark races in Whitefish, February 19–21, 2000.

"Big Mountain will be the only U.S. resort hosting a telemark competition in 2000," says Brian Schott, Public Relations Manager at Big Mountain. "Skiers from around the world have commented on the resort's great ski conditions and terrain." In fact, Schott notes, many nationally ranked telemark racers train and live in Whitefish.

Telemark skiing is the elegant sport where skiers extend one ski in front of the other. The free-heelled telemark boots allow for controlled turns. This classic Nordic skiing turn was first developed in Scandinavia as a mode of transportation for this country's deep snowy backcountry. It was later perfected in Telemark, Norway in the 1800s.

According to Schott, telemark skiing is



gaining popularity in the U.S. With the advent of new plastic telemark ski boots, releasable bindings and telemark "shape" skis, as well as its consideration as an exhibition sport at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, telemarking is hitting the mainstream.

The three-day World Cup event at Big Mountain is comprised of a Classic race, a Giant Slalom race and a Sprint Classic. The difficult all-terrain Classic race has been described by some as "no other ski race on

*Telemark skier Big Mountain Ski resort*

Earth." This steeplechase-style race includes jumps, turns, giant slalom sections and uphill skating. The Giant Slalom race is a speed event and the Sprint Classic is a shorter version of the Classic. So if you are looking for a good time like no other, plan a visit to Big Mountain Ski Resort this February.

For more information call Brian Schott at (406) 862-1900 or visit [www.bigmountain.com](http://www.bigmountain.com).

## A Peak experience Big Sky's Summit Hotel

**If you thought a stay at Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort could not possibly be more luxurious than it already is, a hotel condominium complex currently under construction at the base of Lone Mountain will change your mind.**

Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort, a name already synonymous with deluxe accommodations and facilities, is working on what is expected to be the "crown jewel" of the resort.

The Summit at Big Sky, a \$45 million luxury hotel, is designed to blend European sophistication with Western style, and includes such amenities as underground valet parking, two levels of shopping, and dining

and health club facilities. The hotel will feature 98 condominiums and eight exquisite penthouses. Located in the heart of the Mountain Village, it is within 300 feet of three high-capacity ski lifts, offering visitors the ultimate ski-in, ski-out experience.

The four-star Summit will be the largest building under construction for the next several years in the state of Montana, says Stephen Kircher, Project Coordinator for Boyne USA, owner of Big Sky. "Our resort offers expansive terrain, one of the largest conference facilities in the region, and now with the Summit, the most ideal slopeside accommodations in the Northern Rockies."

The Summit is expected to be completed



by June 1, 2000, with partial opening March 1, 2000.

But the Summit Hotel isn't the only new addition at Big Sky. The resort has added a triple chair lift, five runs and more snowmaking capability for its 1999/2000 ski season.

For more information contact Sue Ghysels, Big Sky's Publicity and Events Coordinator at (406) 995-5895 or [www.bigskyresort.com](http://www.bigskyresort.com).

# Slice of life on Montana's Eastern Plains

Although December temperatures in the eastern Montana town of Sidney may be rather brisk, conditions inside the town's MonDak Heritage Center will be tropical. Well, at least for a day. Sunday, December 5, 1999, marks the center's annual ethnic Christmas celebration. This year's theme is "Island Culture."

"It's a time to expose the community to a broad range of cultures," says Melissa Lapham, Administrative Assistant with the MonDak Heritage Center. "We plan on roasting a pig, the school kids are making leis, we're creating displays and I am even trying to get a local gentleman to wear a grass skirt."

Past celebrations featured Ireland, Russia, the Ukraine, Norway and Sweden. However, the ethnic celebration is just one annual event at this eastern Montana institution. Others include a "quilt" show featuring local and Native American "star" quilts and a

"miniature show" highlighting artworks which are no larger than 5 x 7 inches.

For 15 years, a staff of two full-time employees and over 30 volunteers has maintained this art gallery and 1890s home-stead-era museum, named for its location on the Montana/North Dakota border.

The only art gallery/museum within 128 miles, the MonDak features all types of professionally produced art, ranging from contemporary to western. "Residents may not always like everything they see here, but it sure opens their eyes to artworks that they may never have had a chance to experience, says Lapham.

With Sidney located near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, the museum is now gearing up to create displays commemorating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in 2003-2006.

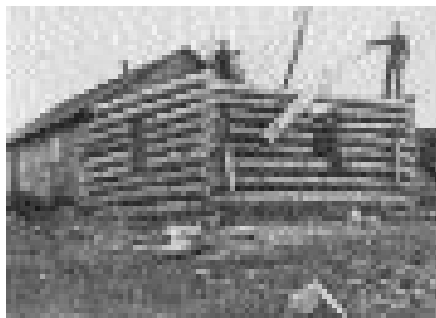
For more information call the MonDak Heritage Center at (406) 482-3500.

## Snapshots of our Past: Evelyn Cameron Gallery

On a warm January day in 1894, a 25-year-old woman from the eastern Montana town of Terry penned this entry into her diary: "I wish I could lead a life worthy to look back upon. I am far out of the path now."

These are the words of Evelyn Cameron. Little did she know that this entry would be the furthest thing from the truth. In 1978, 50 years after her death, a collection of thousands of her glass negative photographs and the diaries where she painstakingly chronicled her life, were discovered in a trunk at a ranch house in Terry, Montana. These possessions tell a story of the triumphs and pitfalls of the pioneer west from 1893-1928.

Cameron was an aristocratic Englishwoman who moved to eastern Montana in 1889. Her husband's dream of raising polo ponies on the harsh Montana plains didn't pan out so Cameron took up portrait photography to make ends meet. Her pictures depicted the area's landscape, wildlife, home life, women working and the tasks of everyday ranch life.



*Photo by Evelyn Cameron*

"We are very proud of her photos and thankful we have them at our museum," says Ruth Frank, a Board Member with the Prairie County Museum. "Cameron's photos truly give our area residents and our visitors a sense of what the homestead days were like."

The museum displays many of Cameron's original prints. Frank explains that the families of those who posed for Cameron also donated many of the pictures.

For more information on the Prairie County Museum and Cameron Gallery call Ruth Frank at (406) 635-5442.

## When Pigs Fly:

### Crazy Days on Montana Ski Slopes

A crowd gathers on the slopes of the Showdown ski area, waiting in anticipation for the next ski jumper to careen down the hill. When the contestant approaches the ski jump, wings suddenly emerge during takeoff, catapulting it higher into the air. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a flying pig!

A pig? Well, not a real pig, but a mannequin dressed as a pig. This is the annual "Mannequin Jump" contest at Showdown. On April 8, 2000, visitors to this central Montana ski area can watch their favorite mannequins hit the slopes and catch some air.

So why would anyone go to these lengths? "We just want to have fun!" says George Willett of Showdown ski area.

Fun is just what folks will experience at many of Montana's 16 downhill ski areas. Another event, the "Cardboard Classic Race," takes place at Red Lodge Mountain's Winter Carnival, March 3-5, 2000.

"Imagination is the key ingredient," explains Marcella Manuel of Red Lodge Mountain, "but cardboard, tape and glue can help."

Each classic is a different theme. Manuel says individuals and teams compete in various cardboard races and there are prizes for the most creative cardboard contraption.

So if you are looking for some down-time from your downhill skiing, why not attend some winter wackiness at Montana's ski areas.

For more information on winter carnivals, fabulous ski conditions or even flying pigs, visit Travel Montana's winter website [www.wintermt.com](http://www.wintermt.com).



*"Mannequin Jump" contest at Showdown ski area.*

## DECEMBER

- 1-5 Christmas Comes to Life and Festival of Trees—Libby 293-4167
- 2 Festival of Lights—Belgrade 388-1616
- 2-4 Festival of Trees—Butte 782-0353
- 2-5 Festival of Trees—Billings 252-9799
- 2-5 Festival of Trees—Helena 442-7920
- 3 Christmas Stroll—Butte 782-1605
- 3 Christmas Stroll—Great Falls 453-6151
- 3 Night of Lights—Columbia Falls 892-2480
- 3 Powell County Christmas Stroll—Deer Lodge 846-3399 or 846-2094
- 3 Annual Christmas Parade—Wolf Point 653-2012
- 3 Christmas Stroll—Billings 259-5260
- 3 Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation Christmas Festival—Deer Lodge 846-2094
- 3 Yule Night on Broadway—Philipsburg 859-3236 or 859-3353
- 3 Christmas Stroll—Miles City 232-2890
- 3-4 Christmas Stroll—Lewistown 538-5436
- 3-4 Christmas Stroll—Red Lodge 446-1718 or 446-1720
- 3-5 Winter Gun Show—Hamilton 777-5861
- 3-5 Catch the Magic—Hamilton 363-4218
- 4 Christmas Stroll—Bozeman 586-4008
- 4 8th Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Fair—Livingston 222-4185
- 4 Townsend Christmas Stroll—Townsend 266-3333
- 4 Holiday Stroll—Missoula 543-4238
- 4 Christmas Stroll—Stanford 566-2633
- 4-5 Kick-out-the-Kinks Benefit Ski Race—Essex 888-5700
- 4-5 Silver Bells—Fairview 747-5259
- 5 Christmas to Remember—Laurel 628-4508
- 5 MonDak Ethnic Christmas Celebration—Sidney 482-3500
- 5 Victorian Christmas at Grant-Kohrs Ranch—Deer Lodge 846-2070
- 5 Original Governor's Mansion Christmas Tour—Helena 442-4120
- 6 Christmas Stroll Parade of Lights—Malta 654-1776
- 6 Holiday Stroll, Artwalk & Tree Lighting Ceremony—Bigfork 837-5888
- 10 Whitefish Christmas Stroll—Whitefish 862-3501
- 10-12 Gun and Hunting Trophy Show—Bozeman 586-6179
- 17 North Pole Stroll—Ennis 682-4388
- 17-18 Annual Chase Hawks Memorial Cowboy Gatherin' Dinner, Dance and Rough Stock Invitational Rodeo—Billings 248-9295

- 18-19 Snowboard Camp—Whitefish 862-2909
- 18-19 Kandahar Cup—Whitefish 862-2900
- 18-28 Holiday Candlelight Tours—Three Forks 287-3541 or 287-3032
- 20-26 Christmas Eve Festivities—Big Sky 995-5000
- 24 Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade With Santa—Whitefish 862-2900
- 26 Anaconda Snowmobile Club Fun Run—Anaconda 563-2918
- 31 Torchlight Parade & Fireworks Display—Marysville 449-3746
- 31 New Year's Eve Fireworks Display and Celebration—Big Sky 995-5000
- 31 Charlie Russell Chew-Choo New Year's Eve Train—Lewistown 538-5436
- 31 First Night—Missoula 549-4755

## JANUARY

- 1 Snowmobile Poker Run—Lincoln 362-4335 or 362-4078
- 1-2 Root Beer Classic—Polebridge 881-2909
- 2 Georgetown Lake Lodge Fun Run—Anaconda 563-7020
- 14-15 Ag Days and Trade Show—Sidney 482-1206
- 14-16 Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals—Great Falls 727-8115
- 15-16 Snow Boss Snocross Race—Haugan 678-4242
- 16-18 Women's and Men's Ski Workshops—Whitefish 862-2909
- 20-22 MAGIE MT Agricultural and Industrial Expo—Great Falls 761-7600
- 21 Micro Brew Review and Cool Dog Ball—Helena 442-3263
- 21-30 Seeley Lake Area Winterfest—Seeley Lake 677-2880
- 22-23 Sprint World Cup—Butte 494-2329
- 30-31 The Seeley-Monture 100 Dog Sled Race—Seeley Lake 677-3016

## FEBRUARY

- 3-28 Northern Rocky Mountain Winter Games—Red Lodge 252-8770
- 3-6 Whitefish Winter Carnival—Whitefish 862-3501
- 4 Cowtown Beef Breeders Show, Craft Expo & Ag Trade Show—Miles City 232-2890
- 4-5 12th Annual \$1,000 Super Poker Ride—Haugan 678-4242
- 4-6 Northern Rodeo Association Finals—Billings 252-1122
- 5 Bud/Chili Cook-Off—Great Falls 761-1900
- 5 Chocolate and Valentine Fair—Helena 443-5291

- 5-6 Snowboard Jam—Missoula 549-9777
- 5-6 Montana Powder 8's Championship—Bozeman 586-1518
- 5-6 Masters Northern Division Championships—Whitefish 862-2900
- 5-13 Frost Fever/Winterfest—Missoula 523-2754
- 5-3/26 Winternational XIII Sports Festival—Butte 723-3177
- 8-13 Montana Winter Fair—Bozeman 585-1397
- 11-12 Chocolate Festival—Anaconda 563-2422
- 11-17 Race To The Sky Sled Dog Race—Helena 442-4008
- 12 Ice Fishing Tournament—Glasgow 228-2222
- 12-13 Annual Winterfest—Lakeside 844-2133
- 12-14 Northern Division Freestyle Championship—Missoula 549-9777
- 17-19 Montana Agri-Trade Exposition—Billings 245-0404
- 17-19 Billings Home & Garden Show/Health & Fitness Expo—Billings 245-0404
- 19 Moonlight Snowmobile Poker Run—Lincoln 362-4335 or 362-4078
- 19-20 Wild West Shred O'fest Snowboard Competition—Bozeman 586-1518
- 19-21 Telemark World Cup—Whitefish 862-2900
- 24-26 Glendive Agri-Trade Exposition—Glendive 365-5601
- 26 Snowboard Jam—Neihart 236-5522
- 26 Wine and Food Festival—Great Falls 761-1900
- 26 Western Montana Wine Festival—Missoula 728-3100
- 26-27 Snowbowl Cup Gelande Championship—Missoula 549-9777

For a complete list of events, see us at [visitmt.com](http://visitmt.com)

## FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, my office offers these services to editors, writers and producers.

### Visual Materials

Color slides, 8" x 10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

### Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

### Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

### Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Mary Boyle, Publicity Coordinator